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Study of *Danaus chrysippus* & its conservation

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Plain tiger or African Monarch or *Danaus chrysippus* is a one of the well distributed species of Monarch butterfly in the Indian subcontinent after Africa, China, Chile, Sri Lanka & other Asian countries including Bangladesh. In college of Agriculture, Baramati, we carried out a study on this well distributed African monarch. *Danaus chrysippus* feeds on different species of Milkweed (*Asclepias*). Two most common species *Calotropis gigantea* (purple flowers) & *Calotropis procera* (white flowers) are commonly found host for *Danaus chrysippus*. In this study, we collected larvae or caterpillar of plain tiger monarch at different stages & corresponding population of it on different species of its host plant. Different phases of life cycle i.e. caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult of *Danaus chrysippus* were observed in Natural & lab conditions. Also, we studied about the most preferred species of Milkweed for *Danaus chrysippus*. Mimicry by other insects & chemical (cardiac fluid) defense mechanisms are some of the distinctive study characteristics about monarch butterfly. Hence this study revealed that there are many threats to the population of *Danaus chrysippus* as in case of *Danaus plexippus* species of Monarch butterfly (An endangered Migratory species) found in Mexico & other American countries. Keeping in mind that, study of biodiversity of different species of living organisms on earth is important, we found some conservative practices that can be followed for *Danaus chrysippus*. Also, study of its host species is carried out for efficient conservation practices. Conservation of milkweed helps the plant life by serving as important host for "Monarch butterfly, Bees (major pollinators)" & insect carnivorous beetles which feeds on aphids. As a part of conclusion, conservation of biology & life cycle of one species is important to better place the biology of other species living on earth.

Biography

Prasad Deshmukh is a Research Scholar from Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, India.

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